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School Committee Minutes 01/12 - 13 / 2010

Approved by the School Committee March 25, 2010

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010

7:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

9:00 P.M.

Present: Denise Burns, Vice Chair Leba Heigham
Joe Curro, Secretary Cindy Starks
Arrived at 7:44 p.m. Ronald Spangler
Arrived at 8:47 p.m. Joe Curran, Chair

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Interim Assistant Superintendent Wallis Raemer
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder
Student Representatives: Eddie Alvarez, and Jennie LaCourt

Absent: January 12, 2010 Jeff Thielman

Mark Ryder exited meeting at 8:57 p.m.
Diane Johnson exited meeting at 8:59 p.m. and returned at 9:02 p.m.
Ron Spangler exited meeting 9:26 p.m. and returned 9:45 p.m.
Wallis Raemer exited meeting at 9:35 p.m. and returned 9:47 p.m.
Kathleen Bodie exited meeting at 10:05 p.m.

January 13, 2010

Jeff Thielman arrived at 9:00 p.m.

Absent: Denise Burns
Ron Spangler
Administration

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

The Committee admired the artwork displayed in the School Committee room from the students of Stratton School.

FY 11 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson spoke on the FY 2011 budget and presented overview of FY 11 budget problems. The shortfall for the FY 11 Budget is \$6.8 million which will result in potential 80 -90 reductions at all levels in the Arlington Public Schools.

Members engaged in extensive discussion, were in agreement that the news was devastating, and encouraged the community to get vocal at the state and federal level.

RACE TO THE TOP DISCUSSION

Dr. Wallis Raemer and Ms. Julie Dunn spoke about Race to the Top (RTTT) developments since the last School Committee meeting. The potential initial grant stands to be less than originally anticipated. If the District were to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, it would retain the ability to apply for other grants as well. This would allow Arlington to have a voice and our concerns heard at the table in the future. This grant would help the State to secure Federal funding and may help other needy districts.

In addition to the RTTT MOU, there was discussion of the Massachusetts Teacher Association Memorandum of Agreement, which has circulated among districts in the state and would provide enhanced assurances between the School Committee, Administration, and teachers' union.

Dr. Spangler moved to direct the Chair of the Arlington School Committee to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Race to the Top, amended without objection by Mr. Curro to authorize the chair and the Superintendent to sign the standard MTA Memorandum of Agreement with the AEA, should the Association choose to participate with us in the Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Ms. Starks. The motion was amended without objection by Ms. Burns to remove the phrase, "and the Superintendent."

Voted 4-2

Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Ms. Burns No, Mr. Curran No

Various Committee members raised the concern that the Race to the Top program indicates additional mandates. Numerous Committee members also recognized the importance of having a voice at the table.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie requested to go on record that she supports signing the Memorandum of Understanding and certainly will support the side Memorandum of Agreement with the Union. Dr Bodie expressed the hope that the union would reconsider signing the MOU, due to the potential of Arlington receiving money and the possibility of having Arlington at the table instead of having other states or towns making decisions for us.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE PROPOSALS TO KENNEDY GOVERNMENT

SCHOOL OF

Ms. Burns moved to authorize the Town Government Reorganization Committee to submit the following paragraph to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government as a potential project for their consideration to help with in Arlington (non-binding, they may decide not to help we may decide we don't want their help after all).

Elementary School Redistricting:

Arlington has a commitment to seven neighborhood elementary schools. Five of those have been rebuilt and we are in planning stages with the other two. With the elementary population spread across town, and because there are demographic shifts in where students are located, we have some inequities in class sizes between schools and in order to provide more equal class sizes and find economies where we can, we may need to redistrict in the near future would welcome assistance with a study and proposal to assist with this project, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted 5-0, Dr. Spangler had exited room

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bodie notified the committee that the town has entered into negotiations with a design firm for the Thompson Elementary School and the Capital Planning committee has approved a multi-year building plan for the Stratton Elementary School. Dr. Bodie discussed the Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives for ELL and how Arlington High School sent four teams to the Economics Summit Competition at Bridgewater State College in December. Dr. Bodie spoke about Mr. Skidmore's remarks on a Boston Globe article, entitled My Lazy American Students and the experience of international students at Arlington High School.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Curro noted that the Budget Subcommittee discussed the budget problems and reductions at the previous night's meeting.

Ms. Johnson had been looking into the possibility of revenue from outdoor advertising at sports activities and on the fields and noted it would require town meeting action; therefore the following motion was made:

Mr. Curro moved to authorize the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officers to work with the Planning Director and Town Counsel to craft a warrant article that would enable us to use temporary outdoor advertising at school sporting events and on fields, seconded by Ms. Burns

Voted 6:0

Dr. Bodie stated that the Town Manager would like to move the Budget along and she would like to give him the Bottom Line FY 11 Operating Budget.

The committee discussed whether it was even necessary for the School Committee to vote the bottom line budget number. Ms. Johnson said that she received notice from the Assistant Town Manager that the School Committee does not need to vote the bottom line. Finance Committee member, Richard Fanning, when asked from Chairman Mr. Curran if we actually needed the vote, said the committee would like a vote and a beginning number to work with from the full School Committee members.

Ms. Burns moved to confirm and acknowledge an unacceptable bottom line.

Ms. Burns then moved to reject the finance committee proposal for FY 11.

The committee agreed that the budget is a community problem and the schools and town need to work together. Ms. Burns withdrew all her motions.

Mr. Curro moved that the Arlington School Committee acknowledge the bottom line budgetary number of \$36,725,737, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 5-1 Mr. Curran No

Ms. Starks noted that the Governor returned to Arlington Monday evening to attend a meeting at the Robbins Library and she spoke briefly with him.

Ms. Heigham reported on the Focus Groups on the Superintendent Search Committee and briefed the committee on the District Accountability Subcommittee discussions. The next District Accountability Subcommittee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

Ms. Burns reminded the community of the Focus Groups being held this week. Ms. Heigham added that the on-line survey for the community's input on what they are looking for in the next Superintendent of Schools is on our school website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Curro reported on all correspondence received: Mr. Skidmore e- update; Brackett School newsletter; MASC MASBOP Unfunded mandates; letter from residents regarding ACE; Ponder Report; Sonic Voyages Music announcement; Daddy-Daughter Dance with Arlington Recreation on Feb 5, 6-8 p.m. at Ottoson Middle Schools; Martin Luther King, Jr. event on January 24th.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

****Approval of Warrant #10090 dated December 22, 2009 in the amount of \$ 565,244.33.***

****Approval of Model Congress UPENN Trip - February 2010***

Ms. Burns moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 6-0

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Heigham noted the following language in the Teachers contract: Article XII, E Vacancies and Promotions - Any screening committee established by the School Committee, pursuant to an administrative position vacancy, shall include at least two teachers elected by their colleagues within the affected building/department/house. Therefore the following motions were made.

Ms. Heigham motioned to reconsider the December 22, 2010 motion on creating a Superintendent Search Screening Committee, seconded by Ms. Burns.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to offer a substitute motion to read the Superintendent Search Committee consist of the following members:

- ***Three parents, one from Elementary, Ottoson Middle School, Arlington High School***
- ***Three community members at large***
- ***Two members of the Arlington School Committee, The Chair of the School committee or his designees, and the Chair of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee***
- ***Two Representative of the Arlington Education Association to be elected by the AEA***
- ***One town-wide elected or appointed Municipal Official***
- ***Member of Administration***

- *Student Representative to be named*

No discussion

Voted 5-1 Ms. Burns voted No

Ms. Heigham stated that a copy of all applications received for the Superintendent Search has been copied to all School Committee members. Ms. Heigham read the names of the applicants that the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee recommends to serve on the Superintendent Search Committee:

- *Municipal Official: William A. Carey*
- *Community Members: Linda Braun, Steve McHugh, Brian Mulvey*
- *Administrator: John Gonsalves, Ottoson Middle School Assistant Principal*
- *Elementary Parent: Amy Speare*
- *OMS Parent: Claudia Johnson Duke*
- *AHS Parent: Tanya Bulkovshteyn*
- *Two AEA Representatives Chris Cronin-Tocci, Lindsay Hubbard*
- *Student Representative: to be named*
- *Ms. Heigham, Chair of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee*
- *Mr. Curran, Chair of the Arlington School Committee*

After Ms. Burns expressed her discontent with the substitution motion and Mr. Curran saying he would like to vote to reconsider, he said he feels the committee would be better served to have his designees from the community on the Superintendent Search Selection Committee due to the time commitment.

Mr. Curran moved to reconsider the vote. Ms. Heigham registered Point of Order on the motion, stating that the motion and second must be from individuals voting on the prevailing side. In response, Dr. Spangler seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham No, Dr. Spangler No, Mr. Curro Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Mr. Curran Yes.

Voted: 4-2

Ms. Heigham noted that at the last meeting it was the intent of the motion to have two School Committee members serve on the Superintendent Search Selection subcommittee. Members at the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee meeting discussed this issue of having the Chair of the School Committee appoint anyone as his designee. Ms. Burns said Mr. Thielman validated that Mr. Curran could appoint anyone and then Ms. Burns validated it with Town Council after the subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Spangler, Ms. Starks and Ms. Heigham all said that the original motion omitted language to read Two School Committee members. Mr. Curro will support to reconsider.

Ms. Starks moved to accept Arlington Education Association language to included two Arlington Education Association representatives to be elected by the AEA to Superintendent Search Selection Committee, seconded by Dr. Spangler.

Voted: 6-0

Ms. Burns moved that the Chair of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee and the Chair of the Arlington School Committee and/or his or her designee, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Ms. Burns withdrew motion

Ms. Heigham change the language of the two bullets points to read Two Members of the Arlington School Committee to be filled by the Chair of the Arlington School Committee or his designee and the chair of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee and or her designee, seconded by Mr. Curro

Ms. Heigham withdrew motion.

Ms. Heigham moved to change the language of the two bullets points to read, Chair of the Arlington School Committee or his designee, from the Arlington School Committee and the Chair of the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittee or her designee from the subcommittee, seconded by

Dr. Spangler.

No Discussion

Roll Call: Ms. Starks Abstained, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Ms. Burns No, and Mr. Curran No.

Voted: 3-2-1

Dr. Spangler moved to approve the 13 members to the Superintendent Search Selection Subcommittee recommended from the Superintendent Search Process Committee, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 4-2, Ms. Burns and Mr. Curran voting No.

Due to the time, the committee questioned if they should continue on with agenda item: Superintendent Search Focus Group.

Dr. Spangler moved to recess till Wednesday, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Dr. Spangler withdrew motion.

At 10:50 p.m. Dr. Spangler moved to recess till Wednesday, January 13, 2009 at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0

January 13, 2010 9:00 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FOCUS GROUP

School Committee Members, Mr. Curran, Mr. Curro, Mr. Thielman, Ms. Heigham and Ms. Starks attended the focus group and presented their answers to various questions from Mr. Glenn Koocher, MASC in regards to the Superintendent Search.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thielman moved to adjourn at 9:45 pm., seconded by Mr. Curran.

Voted: 5-0

Respectfully submitted by

Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jc